

Dear Mr. Royer:

Thank you for your comments before the Mississippi River Commission during the public meeting held in Memphis, Tennessee, on August 20, 2001. In your statement you addressed the unique recreational opportunities afforded by the Mississippi River and discussed the importance of clean air and fresh water.

The Commission agrees with you that the Mississippi River is a unique resource that can accommodate a wide range of beneficial public uses, whether commercial navigation, recreation, or a host of others. We commend your efforts toward elevating the visibility and importance of the Mississippi River for recreation and for providing opportunities for people to "reconnect" with the mighty Mississippi. We agree with you that clean air and fresh water are very important not only to the environment but also to the economy.

We thank you for the articles on the Mississippi River and its impacts on the sports of cycling, canoeing, and kayaking. Thank you again for your participation in our hearing. We appreciate receiving your views and look forward to hearing from you at our future public meetings.

Sincerely,

Edwin J. Arnold, Jr.
Brigadier General, U.S. Army
President Designee, Mississippi
River Commission